A BRIEF

METHOD

OF

DEVOTION

FOR THE

Lords-Day.

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A Method of Devotion, &c.

A Prayer *for Sunday Morning.*

BLeſſed be thy Name, moſt gracious God, for all thy Mercies beſtowed upon from the time of my Birth to this preſent Moment. In Thee, O Lord, I live, and move, and have my being. Thou madeſt me by Thy Power, when I was nothing. Thou redeemeſt me by thy Death of Thy dear Son, when I was worſe than nothing. Ever praiſed be Thy Name, that I was Born within Thy peculiar Fold, the Chriſtian Church. Where I was early conſecrated to Thee in Baptiſm; and have ſince been partaker of all thoſe Spiritual Helps, which might aid and aſſiſt me to perform that Vow I there made to Thee. And though by my wilfulneſs or negligence I have broken that Vow; yet (ſuch is thy Patience) Thou haſt hitherto ſpared me, and given me time for Repentance.

It is, O Lord, Thy reſtraining Grace alone, by which I have kept back from any the greateſt Sins. And it is Thy inciting and aſſiſting Grace alone, by which I have been enabled to do any the leaſt

good

good. For these, and all other thy Spiritual Blessings, my Soul doth magnifie the Lord, and all that is within me praise his Holy Name.

I likewise praise Thee for those many Temporal Blessings I enjoy, as Health, Friends, Liberty, Food and Raiment. The Comforts as well as Necessaries of this Life. For Thy Preservation of me the last Night, from Fire and Robbery, and all other sad Accidents.

Lord, let this Goodness of Thine lead me to Repentance. And grant, that I may not only offer thee Thanks and Praise, but may also order my Conversation aright, that so I may at the last see the Salvation of God; thro' Jesus Christ, my alone Mediator and Intercessor, who hath taught me thus to Pray, Our Father, *&c.*

An Ejaculation at Entring the Church.

IN the Multitude of thy Mercy, I will come into thy House, and in thy Fear will I worship toward thy Holy Temple.

Being come into your Seat, immediately prostrate your self before the Divine Majesty, and beg his gracious Assistance and Acceptance, both of your self and others,

others, in all those Duties you are going to perform, saying.

A private Prayer in the Church.

O Lord, in behalf of my self and this whole Congregation, I do humbly beg thy Holy Spirit, to help our Infirmities at this time; and to dispose all our Hearts to true devotion: That our prayers and praises may be acceptable in thy sight, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BLessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting Life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A short Ejaculation to be used after Sermon.

BLessed be thy great and glorious Name, O Lord our God, for this continued opportunity of hearing thy Word; of praising thee for thy mercies, and making our Wants known unto thee; through the Merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

And then rising up from your Seats, reverently depart out of Church.

A Short

A Short Prayer at home, after we are come from Church, before Dinner.

GLory be to thee, O Lord God almighty; glory be to thee, who haſt permitted me to appear before the this Day, and to tread in thy courts. O that I may thus dwell in the houſe of the Lord all the days of my Life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his Temple.

Lord pardon all my failings in thy ſervice this day paſt; the wandrings, and coldneſs, and indevotion of my prayers and praiſes. For the the ſake of my bleſſed Saviour have mercy upon me. *Amen.*

After dinner (having allowed your ſelves ſome little time for the digeſting of your Meal) you are again to retire to your private devotions. Which you may thus continue.

A prayer after Dinner.

BLeſſed be thy Name, O Father of mercy for thine ineſtimable love in the redemption of the World by our Lord Jeſus Chriſt; for the means of Grace, and for the hope of glory.

I bleſs thee, O God, that I was early dedicated to thy Service in Baptiſm; wherein I was made a Member of Chriſt, a child of God, and the inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven. But

But unworthy wretch that I am! I have deſpiſed, and rejected, and forfeited all thoſe Bleſſings. Lord have mercy upon me, and forgive my Sin, for it is great. *Amen.*

A Prayer for Sunday Evening.

O Holy Lord God almighty; before whom all knees do bend, and to whom all Creatures in Heaven and Earth do bow and obey; behold here, a poor, impotent, guilty Creature, humbly proſtrate before thy Throne: Adoring thy Greatfulneſs, and admiring thy goodneſs, and deſiring nothing more than faithfully to ſerve thee all the Days of our lives: For thou only art holy: Thou only art the Lord: And glory be to thee, O Lord moſt High.

Praiſed be thy Name, O Lord, from riſing up of the Sun, to the going down of of the ſame. Thou art my God, and I will thank thee. Bleſſed be thy Name, that thou haſt made me a rational creature; capable to know thee, and capable to enjoy thee. But ever bleſſed be thy Name, that I am a Chriſtian; that I was dedicated to thee in baptiſm; and have ſince been made a partaker of all thoſe Spiritual helps, which might aid and aſſiſt me to perform that Vow I then made to thee.

And ſince my Heart is too apt to be over-charged with the Cares of this Life; praiſed be thy Name, that thou haſt commanded me to ſet apart one Day in Seven; to lay aſide all Worldly Thoughts and Buſineſs; to conſider eternity; & to take care of my Soul. I thank thee for thee for the opportunity thou haſt given me this Day of meeting in thy Houſe, Give a gracious anſwer to thoſe petitions which have this Day been put up in the behalf of thy People. And grant that thoſe inſtructions which have been given me, may have a good effect upon me; that they may influence my Life, that I may ſome way or other be the better for them.

Bleſs all my Friends and Relations. Preſerve me this Night from all ſad accidents. All which I beg for the alone merits of Chriſt Jeſus. In whoſe bleſſed Name and Words I further pray, ſaying, Our Father, &c.

You may on this Day take care as neceſſity requires of your Worldly affairs. Which is ſo far from being a Prophanation of the Chriſtian Sabbath, as ſome ſcrupulous Perſons may fancy, that it is conſiſtent with the ſtricteſt and moſt Jewiſh Obſervation of it. For thus our Bleſſed Saviour hath determin'd the Caſe: Which

of you ſhall have an Aſs, or an Ox fallen into a Pit, and will not ſtraitway pull him out on the Sabath Day.

When the bells call you to Church: To which you are as joyfully to hearken as to the call of God, and that he himſelf invites you to meet him at his Houſe.

And I beg of you that you will order your affairs, that you may come at the very beginning of the Publick ſervice. And that you would make conſcience to be there at the beginning of Prayers as well as at the Sermon.

And here I muſt needs take the freedom to tell you there are ſome very faulty in this reſpect; who I doubt, flatter themſelves that they ſufficiently obſerve this Day as to the publick, if they can but come at the beginning of the Sermon.

Now to rectifie this Miſtake, I muſt deſire you to conſider, that you come into the Houſe of God, not only to hear a Sermons, to be informed in you Judgments, and to be inſtructed in your duty; but the chief reaſon of your aſſembling, is to worſhip and adore the author of your being, to pay an Homage an Service to him. As the Exhortation of our Church, before the daily Prayer, doth moſt pertinently inſtruct you. Where it reminds you, there are four Rea-

Reaſons why we do aſſemble and meet together in God's Houſe.

I. To render thanks for the great benefits we have received at his Hands.

II. To ſet forth his moſt worthy Praiſe.

III. To hear his moſt holy Word.

IV. To ask thoſe things which are requiſite and neceſſary, as well for the body and Soul.

Where you may obſerve, ſuppoſing that to hear Gods Holy Word, were only to hear the Sermon which by the by it is not. For the Pſalms, the Hymns, the Leſſons, the Epiſtle and Goſpel, which are read out of the Bible, thoſe only are God's word. But as to Sermon, that is no other than an Explication of God's Word, with Exhortations and Reproofs, grounded thereupon.) But, I ſay, ſuppoſing that to hear God's Holy word, were nothing elſe but to hear the Sermon; yet, he who is preſent only at the Sermon, he neglects three parts in four of his Duty, *viz.*

1. Prayers.
2. Praiſes, and
3. Thankſgivings.

I ſhall conclude with the following Ejaculation.

This is the Day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoyce and be glad in it. Pſal. 118. 24.

A neceſſary

A neceſſary qualification to receive benefit by all this.

IF every one had ſo much *Humility*, and ſuch a hearty deſire to be truly good, wrought in their Souls betime, they would read and hear Gods word to better purpoſe.

I. Therefore Parents ſhould above all things inſtil this into their Children very early; how neceſſary it is, and how much it becomes them to be humble: and that by no means they grow conceited of their own parts or underſtanding; but be deſirous to learn of every one, with ſimplicity and meekneſs, without any other deſign but too know their duty.

II. This we may be ſure would diſpoſe them to receive benefit by the holy Scriptures, and by all other good inſtructions: For it is the very qualification which Chriſt requires to make a Perſon fit to be one of his Diſciples, that he firſt become like a little Child. And when he is thus freed from Pride, ambition, deſire of riches, or any thing elſe but only of Knowledge (as little Children naturally are, till the ſeeds of thoſe vices be ſtirred up in them by others) he will be a fit ſoil to receive Chriſts heavenly Doctrine.

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FINIS.